

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

SERVING A TRADING AREA OF 25,000

## GLADES OBSERVER

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### Belle Glade's Mrs. June Gipson Is Named Palm Beach County's 'Polio Mother Of Year'



Mrs. June Gipson of Belle Glade, as she received the citation from Kenneth Foster, chairman of the March of Dimes, as Palm Beach County's "Polio Mother of the Year."

BELLE GLADE — A pretty Belle Glade mother of three children — two which have been born since she was stricken with infantile paralysis — has been named Palm Beach County's Polio Mother of the Year.

She is Mrs. June Gipson, a Glades resident for the past two years.

Kenneth Foster, county March of Dimes fund campaign chairman, said the young mother who is presently taking therapy treatments at the Palm Beach Clinic with the cooperation of the Palm Beach County polio chapter.

Now fighting her way back to recovery, the Polio Mother is presently taking therapy treatments at the Palm Beach Clinic with the cooperation of the Palm Beach County polio chapter.

Since the day in 1949 when she had to be carried into a hospital because she was unable to use her legs or arms because of paralytic polio, Mrs. Gipson became the mother of two more children, Sherrie June and Ronnie William. Today her greatest ambition is to regain enough strength "to take care of my family and my home."

Mrs. Gipson, who does most of her housework unaided, has also worked successfully as a waitress and as a cashier.

One word of advice which the Polio Mother has for adults, is to take advantage of inoculations now available against polio. Despite the fact that she already has had one type of polio, Mrs. Gipson has taken "shots" for the two other types and urges others to follow her example.

"Our Polio Mother's fight against infantile paralysis," Foster said, "will serve as an inspiration to every one of our volunteer workers during our fund campaign."

More than half of those who die from tuberculosis are men over 40.

### OPEN BIDS ON METERS TONIGHT

PAHOKEE—The next — and perhaps final — chapter of the controversy over whether Pahokee is to have parking meters on downtown streets will eventuate tonight when the City Council holds another regular meeting at 8 p.m.

Council met last Friday and heard Groceryman Jack Spencer present a petition signed by 90 residents opposing installation of the meters.

Council took no action on the meters at that time, but tonight is the deadline for receiving bids, and further discussion is expected when councilmen open the bids.

Tonight's session is the second Friday meeting held in place of Monday meetings in order to give councilmen Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve holidays.

Other big news at last week's meeting was authorization of a resolution to be sent to the county commission protesting location of the proposed sub-Glades county courthouse at the County Barn near Belle Glade.

### Action Slow With BG Commission

BELLE GLADE — With city commissioners still recuperating from the Christmas holiday and not much ado about city goings-on, Belle Glade city commission postponed the regular Wednesday meeting to last night.

City Manager Clarence E. Robinson reported that the agenda for last night's meeting was "slight," with little more scheduled than reading several official letters and resolutions.

### Sun Shines On Glades Christmas

Northerners may like their Christmas white, but Glades residents had a Dec. 25th made to order for southerners—warm, clear sunshine.

Old Sol turned on all his charm for the holiday, and outdoor turkey dinners were in order at several homes in Belle Glade, Pahokee and Canal Point.

Tuesday's pleasant weather turned out motorists aplenty sightseeing residential Christmas decorations. But most residents were content to be at home with their families as youngsters tried out their new roller skates, their new bikes and other toys.

Warm weather also had a good psychological effect on last minute shoppers, as area merchants reported good sales both on Saturday and Monday.

Mr. Sasser had been a resident of Belle Glade for 17 years, coming here from Cairo, Ga. He was manager of the Glades Oil Company bulk plant, and also was secretary-treasurer of the corporation. He was a member of the local BPOE lodge.

Survivors include his wife, Aida; two daughters, Mrs. Sasser of Cairo, Ga.; three brothers, Paul of Pahokee; Marvin of Metcalf, Ga.; and Carl of Columbus, Ga.; four sisters, Mrs. Edna Thompson of Arlington, Va.; Mrs. Gertrude Watson of Pahokee; and Mrs. Margery Hixson of Culbert, Ga.

Interment will be in Hillcrest Cemetery in West Palm Beach. Wetherington Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### New BG Golf Pro To Tutor Students

The Municipal Country Club now has the services of a new golf pro, Roy Kimberly, 21, who is a native of Lake Worth, a graduate of Lake Worth High School, and a former member of the Lake Worth High School Golf team which for two years held the state school championship.

Mr. Kimberly plays with a handicap of 4 on the West Palm Beach course, and par on the Lake Worth course. He plans, after the first of the year, to give group golf lessons to high school students.

The new pro was quoted as saying that the local greens are in good condition. Winter rye grass was sown recently.

Before coming to Belle Glade, Mr. Kimberly was employed for two years as greenskeeper at the Lake Worth course. He and his wife, Kathryn, will make their home here.

### EYE THE NEW YEAR

Pahokee First Baptist Church will hold a Watch Night service beginning at 8:30 on New Year's Eve. Included in the evening's program will be the showing of the Billy Graham film "Mr. Texas."

At one minute past midnight, church-goers will have their first opportunity to spend money in 1957 when an offering will be taken for foreign missions.

### Scouts Sing For Prisoners Xmas

INDIANTOWN — Inmates at the State Prison Farm here were treated to a special Christmas morning program by entertainers from Pahokee's Boy Scout Troop 26.

Master of Ceremonies was Scoutmaster Louis Mims, who introduced vocalist Horace Scruggs, who was accompanied by Kenny Williamson and Roger Watson, guitarists.

Comedy skits were presented by Eddie Crews, Denny Padgett and Alton "Hotshot" Mims.

The scout program was received enthusiastically and a prison quartet reciprocated by singing several numbers.

### MRS. I. I. SMITH DIES IN GAINESVILLE

GAINESVILLE — Mrs. I. I. Smith died at a local hospital on Sunday, following a brief illness. Funeral services were held in Gainesville on Monday.

Mrs. Smith was a pioneer Glades resident and well-known in Pahokee. She was the mother of Mrs. Lewis Friend of Pahokee.

### BIG WEEKEND!

### Pahokee Gains Fame As Lake Fish Center

PAHOKEE — There's no doubt about it — the good fishing on Lake Okeechobee waters at Pahokee is becoming famous nationally. Proof of this was found this week when a California angler traveled 1,850 miles from his home state to fish here. The Far West Walton reportedly was told about Pahokee by a fishing friend who lives in Pennsylvania.

Heretofore Lake Okeechobee fishing fame has been confined pretty much to commercial camps on the southern and western shores and at J & S Camp on the northeast rim. But Capt. Lawrence Wheeler, dockmaster at Pahokee Harbor, says that anglers from all around the lake are putting in at Pahokee to fish.

Fishers turned out in unprecedented numbers over the holidays at the harbor. Wheeler reports that more than a thousand paid admission to drop bait in Pahokee waters from Saturday through Christmas Day.

"The fishing has been good," Wheeler agrees, "and they were takin' fish by the ton until high winds and cold weather hit Tuesday."

Up until the weekend, speckled perch and black bass featured the lake from the lake. Most of the perch were of the black variety, but some anglers — young Mike Wilson among them — turned in catches of some what uncommon white perch.

The "run" on the perch slackted off, but they began to bite again Wednesday afternoon.

One reason for the good fishing at Pahokee, Wheeler says, is the constant feeding of minnows into the harbor. They are netted in off-beat areas and transplanted to the harbor.

Clifton Lightsey, Okeechobee bait-seller, is one of the most enthusiastic fans of the breakwater. "During the 'speck' run recently," he says, "you could look up any time and see two or three fish in the air dangling from hooks."

Boats have been put in at Pahokee harbor from Clewiston, Lake Harbor and Belle Glade, Wheeler says. And four commercial fishermen are using the harbor for a home base, some of them ranging out into the lake 12 to 14 miles. Their catches include 30-lb. catfish.

Jaycees, under whose sponsorship the harbor is being developed, are happy with the upsurge in fishing. They note with pleasure the increase in revenue, as well as the volume of non-paying tourist sightseers visiting the harbor. Estimates are that there are five spectators for every fisherman at the breakwater.

Jaycees foresee private enterprise capitalizing on their development of the breakwater. Already they've noted need for private for-rent housekeeping quarters for tourists and weekend fishers. And there have been calls for car rentals from inebriant trans-lake batters who

(Continued on Page 4)

### Pierce Invention Provides Key To Ramie Future In Glades

BY PAUL DINNIS

Will money expended by William Pierce and Associates be "money down the drain" or will, from their ventures in ramie, a major industry emerge to stabilize the year-round economy of the Glades?

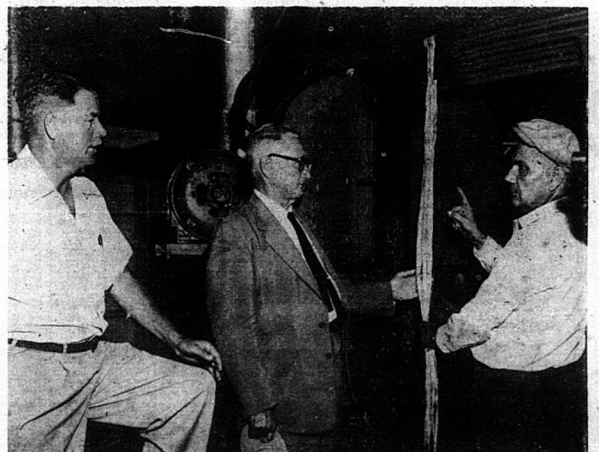
The question is of prime importance to Glades residents following disclosure in last week's OBSERVER that the Pierce and Associates syndicate had signed an agreement to take over the ramie plant and acreage near Canal Point developed by Newport Industries.

The Glades has seen ramie investments come and go, but so fabulous are the miracle fiber's potential profits that new investors have been found through the years.

Key to the new syndicate's future operations appears to be the further development of the ramie processing machine invented by Pierce, who hails from Belle Glade. His machine utilizes supersonic speeds to set up vibrations to clean and straighten fiber brought in from field decorators. It is then stapled in uniform lengths and carded in such a way as to be acceptable for use by domestic cotton manufacturers on textile machines already in existence.

In a telephone conversation with Edgar G. Hamilton, West Palm Beach attorney and a main figure in the new syndicate, OBSERVER learned that Pierce and Associates plan big things for the Glades, if the domestic textile people continue to give favorable acceptance of Pierce-processed ramie fibers.

"We hope the ramie industry will expand to the extent that



KEY TO RAMIE'S FUTURE may be the processing machine invented by Bill Pierce, right, of Belle Glade. He's shown explaining the machine to Fred C. Young, left, county ramie grower, and a visitor from Guatemala. (Pic taken by Grant Averill and reprinted from July 27 issue of GLADES OBSERVER.)

individual farmers in the Glades will grow ramie independently in the next several years," Hamilton said. "We expect to form a corporation in the near future to handle other growers' ramie fiber and to build a number of

Pierce's machines to process it." Where the machines will be located at the old Newport site, at Canal Point, Pahokee or Belle Glade — remains to be worked out. And whether a ramie boom develops because of

cotton manufacturers' interest remains to be seen. But if the latter comes along, the Glades may eventually be the home of textile manufacturing itself, and with it a solid, stabilized year-round economy.







